

Major Work Stoppages

Technical Note

Major work stoppages are those involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting a full shift or longer, and includes worker-initiated strikes, as well as lockouts by employers. A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of workers (not necessarily members of a union) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of disputes, the Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics; both are included in the term "work stoppage" and are used interchangeably.

Data for the number of workers involved and days of idleness include all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not account for secondary idleness as result of

material or service shortages. The number of workers idled in any stoppage represents the maximum number of workers idled during the reference period for that stoppage.

Data for days idle as a percent of estimated working time shows idleness as a percent of available working time. Available working time is computed by multiplying the total employment during the reference period by the number of days typically worked by most employees during that period.

Additional information

For more detailed data, contact the Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC 20212-0001. Telephone: (202) 606-6275.

Table D-1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-97¹

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	Beginning in period	In effect during period	Beginning in period (thousands)	In effect during period (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time ²
1947	270	-	1,629	-	25,720	(3)
1948	245	-	1,435	-	26,127	0.22
1949	262	-	2,537	-	43,420	.38
1950	424	-	1,698	-	30,390	.26
1951	415	-	1,462	-	15,070	.12
1952	470	-	2,746	-	48,820	.38
1953	437	-	1,623	-	18,130	.14
1954	265	-	1,075	-	16,630	.13
1955	363	-	2,055	-	21,180	.16
1956	287	-	1,370	-	26,840	.20
1957	279	-	887	-	10,340	.07
1958	332	-	1,587	-	17,900	.13
1959	245	-	1,381	-	60,850	.43
1960	222	-	896	-	13,260	.09
1961	195	-	1,031	-	10,140	.07
1962	211	-	793	-	11,760	.08
1963	181	-	512	-	10,020	.07
1964	246	-	1,183	-	16,220	.11
1965	268	-	999	-	15,140	.10
1966	321	-	1,300	-	16,000	.10
1967	381	-	2,192	-	31,320	.18
1968	392	-	1,855	-	35,367	.20
1969	412	-	1,576	-	29,397	.16
1970	381	-	2,468	-	52,761	.29
1971	298	-	2,516	-	35,538	.19
1972	250	-	975	-	16,764	.09
1973	317	-	1,400	-	16,260	.08
1974	424	-	1,796	-	31,809	.16
1975	235	-	965	-	17,563	.09
1976	231	-	1,519	-	23,962	.12
1977	298	-	1,212	-	21,258	.10
1978	219	-	1,006	-	23,774	.11
1979	235	-	1,021	-	20,409	.09
1980	187	-	795	-	20,844	.09
1981	145	-	729	-	16,908	.07
1982	96	-	656	-	9,061	.04
1983	81	-	909	-	17,461	.08
1984	62	-	376	-	8,499	.04
1985	54	-	324	-	7,079	.03
1986	69	-	533	-	11,861	.05
1987	46	-	174	-	4,481	.02
1988	40	-	118	-	4,381	.02
1989	51	-	452	-	16,996	.07
1990	44	-	185	-	5,926	.02
1991	40	-	392	-	4,584	.02
1992	35	-	364	-	3,989	.01
1993	35	-	182	-	3,981	.01
1994	45	-	322	-	5,021	.02
1995	31	-	192	-	5,771	.02
1996	37	-	273	-	4,889 ^r	.02
1996 Through April	16	17	199.5	202.0	2,377.0	.03
1997P Through April	8	13	58.8	70.8	1,047.4	.01

¹ The number of stoppages and workers relate to stoppages that began in the year. Days of idleness include all stoppages in effect. Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the year.

² Agricultural and government employees are included in the total

employed and total working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

³ Data not available.

P = preliminary.

r = revised.

Table D-2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, February, 1997^p

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during February
Detroit Free Press and Detroit News Detroit, MI Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions and Teamsters	7/13/95	2/19/97	2,500	30,000
Pemco Aeroplex, Inc. Birmingham, AL Automobile Workers	7/22/96		1,100	20,900
Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel Corp. Interstate Steelworkers	10/1/96		4,800	91,200
Elevator Industry Flushing, NY Electrical Workers (IBEW)	11/1/96		1,500	28,500
Stoppages beginning in February 0			0	
Stoppages in effect in February 4			9,900	170,600

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
p = preliminary.

Table D-3. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, March, 1997^p

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during March
Pemco Aeroplex, Inc. Birmingham, AL Automobile Workers	7/22/96	3/21/97	1,100	16,500
Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel Corp. Interstate Steelworkers	10/1/96		4,800	100,800
Elevator Industry Flushing, NY Electrical Workers (IBEW)	11/1/96	3/2/97	1,500	0
General Motors Corp. Fort Wayne, IN Automobile Workers	3/14/97	3/27/97	2,700	27,000
Stoppages beginning in March	1		2,700	
Stoppages in effect in March	4		10,100	144,300

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
p = preliminary.

Table D-4. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, April, 1997^p

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during April
Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel Corp. Interstate Steelworkers	10/1/96		4,800	105,600
General Motors Corp. Oklahoma City, OK Automobile Workers	4/4/97		3,500	66,500
Chrysler Corp. Interstate Automobile Workers	4/10/97		11,100	157,200
Kaiser Permanente Northern CA California Nurses Association	4/16/97	4/16/97	17,000	17,000
Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. Interstate Steelworkers	4/20/97		12,000	96,000
Goodyear/Kelly-Springfield Fayetteville, NC Steelworkers	4/22/97		2,300	16,100
General Motors Corp. Pontiac, MI Automobile Workers	4/23/97		5,900	35,400
Stoppages beginning in April 6			51,800	
Stoppages in effect in April 7			56,600	493,800

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
p = preliminary.